



# ***Daily Report***

## **Sub-Saharan Africa**

FBIS-AFR-89-236  
Monday  
11 December 1989

# Daily Report

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11 December 1989

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## Chad

### President Habre Condemns Libyan Aggression

PM1112100889 Paris *LE MONDE* in French  
9 Dec 89 p 7

[Interview with President Hissein Habre by Jacques de Barrin in Ndjamená—date not given]

[Text] Ndjamená—This daunting warrior who is now in power in Ndjamená knows how to control his temper. Therefore, in an interview with *LE MONDE*, Hissein Habre did not raise his voice when he condemned Tripoli's participation in the fierce clashes—hundreds of people injured and killed on all sides—between Chadian troops and uncontrolled elements (around 2,000) in the Sudanese province of Darfur in recent weeks.

"The Libyan authorities are fully and directly involved," he said. "We must state the facts: Our forces had to fight the Islamic Legion, essentially composed of foreigners, mainly blacks, living in different Libyan military camps." However, he does not deny the fact that there were Chadians in this well-equipped legion.

"Tripoli provided the logistics and communications," the Chadian head of state continued, "but this time its men did not take part directly in the fighting." The fact remains that in his eyes the recent clashes in Darfur amount to a "Chadian-Libyan war." According to him, this proves the duplicity of Libya "which, in practice, has not stopped its traditional aggression and destabilization," but which displays peaceful dispositions in public. "We will continue to engage in dialogue," Mr Habre nonetheless stated on 25 November, the very day when the joint commission for monitoring the implementation of the framework peace agreement signed in Algiers on 31 August was meeting in Ndjamená.

For the time being, there is no question of releasing the 1,500 or 2,000 Libyan prisoners of war, as Tripoli is emphatically demanding. "This problem is secondary," the Chadian head of state said. "It will be settled when the causes of the conflict, which are both territorial (the recovery of the Aozou strip—*LE MONDE* editor's note) and political (the Libyan authorities' desire to impose the regime of their choice in Ndjamená—*LE MONDE* editor's note) have been eliminated." According to Mr Habre, Colonel al-Qadhafi "is playing for time to produce as many chemical weapons as possible which are intended to be used."

When will neighboring Sudan stop serving as a "sanctuary" for forces hostile to Ndjamená? Mr Habre has "no illusion" about this. "We have obtained verbal assurances from the Khartoum authorities, but they do not have the means of countering the Libyan presence in Darfur."

The Chadian head of state admitted that Libya is "a difficult partner" for Sudan, "because it is its main supplier of arms, oil, and money."

So, in view of the fact that "the future is still not very clear," Mr Habre says he is hostile to the dismantling of the French "Epervier" military force or to further reductions in the air defense shield (the last was in September—*LE MONDE* editor's note). "In this sphere, the decisions must relate very closely to the situation," he said.

Paris' recent decision to lift the embargo on military equipment for Libya and to supply it with three Mirage planes irritated the Ndjamená authorities. According to the Chadian head of state, "that decision was premature." In his view, "Libya does not deserve these weapons because it is still one of the most important supports for international terrorism."

Nonetheless the Chadian head of state will hold a referendum on 10 December to gain approval for a new Constitution and, on the same occasion, will ask the voters for a formal presidential mandate. This is a sign of political normalization now that, according to him, national reconciliation is merely a matter of "consolidation." "The people have suffered atrociously for more than 20 years. They do not want a return to the past."

In this respect, the uprising—a putsch attempt—on 1 April led by his three closest comrades-in-arms, including Idriss Deby, his former military adviser, who took part on the "Libyan" side in the recent fighting in Darfur, "shocked" Mr Habre. "In view of the fact that they were men with whom I had worked for a long time, such situations are painful," he added, with a touch of emotion.

However, there is nothing surprising in this. "The history of struggles by liberation movements is full of this kind of treachery," he explained. These "renegades," as they are called here, "were manipulated by foreign powers, and it is no accident that those who escaped (from that adventure—*LE MONDE* editor's note) fled to a country known traditionally as the destabilizing element in Chad." Col al-Qadhafi's hand is seen in this again.

### Views Libyan 'Annexation' Policy

AB0912092989 Libreville Africa No 1 in French  
0730 GMT 9 Dec 89

[Text] President Hissein Habre has talked about relations with Libya. He said that Libya has not given up its policy of annexation of Chad. He said that there was no doubt about Libya's aid in recent fighting in Sudan's Darfur Province. He declared that Libya helped in logistics and communications during the clashes between the governmental forces and Chadian dissidents. [Paris AFP in French at 0735 GMT on 10 December, in an item entitled: "Mr Habre is Trying to Conceal his Recent Defeat by Chadian Dissidents, According to a Libyan Spokesman," refers to "President Habre's remarks published Friday, 9 December, in the



French journal LE MONDE regarding 'Libya's Logistical and Communications Assistance to the Chadian rebels'."

### High Turnout in Constitutional Refrendum

AB1012151989 Paris AFP in English 1500 GMT  
10 Dec 89

[Text] Ndjamen, Dec 10 (AFP)—Chadians started going to the polls in strength Sunday [10 December] to vote on the adoption of a new constitution and undoubtedly to re-elect President Hissein Habre.

At midday, the turnout at some of the 275 polling stations in the capital was already up to 90 per cent. A high turnout was also reported by officials at some 3,200 centres in the central African country's 14 other districts.

Mr. Habre told reporters here after casting his vote that the poll "marks the country's move, after so many years of serious mishaps, into the era of democracy and the state of law".

State radio meanwhile reported that citizens were voting "massively 'Yes'" to the new constitution and for Mr. Habre. Red 'No' ballot papers littered the ground at Ndjamen polling booths, observers confirmed.

The constitution gives the president considerable executive powers. It also opens the way for parliamentary elections and will enable Mr. Habre to dissolve a five-year parliament twice during his seven-year mandate.

In the capital and nearby villages, observers noted that voting was taking place in orderly fashion, with men and women forming separate queues since the early hours.

Presenting the draft constitution after lengthy nationwide consultations last month, constitutional committee chairman Jean Elingue Bavoyeu said it aimed to provide "efficiency, stability and continuity" in leadership, while giving Chadians "an apprenticeship in democracy".

The constitution will replace the fundamental law decreed by Mr. Habre when he seized power in 1982. There have been no elections in Chad for 20 years.

Tribal common law will be recognized in the communities where it is practised, while a supreme court to be set up by the constitution would set about establishing a general legal code.

The official results of the poll are not due for a week, but the Interior Ministry plans to realise significant interim figures late Tuesday or on Wednesday [12 and 13 December].

### Habre Discusses Elections 10 Dec

AB1012220089 Ndjamen Domestic Service in French  
1900 GMT 10 Dec 89

[Text] All day long, Chadians throughout the country came out in large numbers to heed the watchword of the

president of the Republic by arriving early at the various polling centers. Thus, they voted for the referendum on the country's new constitution, and in the election of the president of the Republic. By mid-morning, the head of state, El Hadj Hissein Habre, like any other Chadian citizen, went to the Ndjamen 1st District polling center to cast his ballot. He was accompanied to the center by his two wives, Hajia Fatime Habre and (Matamaité Labia). When he walked out of the polling center, the head of state spoke to the national press.

[Begin Habre recording] By casting my ballot, I have just fulfilled my duty as a citizen. In fact this is a citizen's right. Believe me, I have experienced this moment with intensity and [word indistinct]. This is a particularly important moment because of the issues at stake. What are the issues? They involve Chad entering the era of democracy and achieving the status of a law-abiding state after so many years of strife. This entails great prospects for us. This has been an intense day for the Chadian people, who mobilized in an extraordinary effort and total commitment to build and control the country's future. I hope that the National Union for Independence and Revolution will win, and I believe it will. Our constitution will be approved, the president of Republic elected, and together, we will lay the foundation for this new stage in Chad's welfare. [end recording]

### Zaire

### French Satellite Earth Station Inaugurated

AB0712182589 Paris AFP in French 1027 GMT  
6 Dec 89

[Text] Kinshasa, 5 Dec (AFP)—A satellite earth station for programs of Canal France International, CFI, was commissioned on Tuesday [5 December] in Kinshasa by Zairian Information and Press Minister Sakombi Inongo. This "Television Pictures Bank," a project and gift of the French Central Fund for Economic Cooperation, was presented to the Zairian Radio and Television Corporation, OZRT, by Mr Rethore, ambassador of France to Zaire. Zaire is among the first 24 African countries to be equipped with these new program reception facilities from the CFI, which runs a 4-hour daily program comprised of television films, games, variety entertainment, sports, and documentary films. Canal France International also plans to implement intra-African TV program exchanges. This use of satellite for telecast purposes will also enable Radio France Internationale, by means of a retransmitter, to broadcast its programs to the Kinshasa area on frequency modulation early next year.

The Zairian minister was delighted with this cooperation between his country and France in the media sector, which, according to him, should "constitute a decisive factor of emulation and enhance complementarity and dialogue between the two countries."

## Kenya

### Zimbabwe's Mugabe Arrives in Nairobi 7 Dec

EA0712212489 Nairobi Domestic Service in English  
1800 GMT 7 Dec 89

[Excerpts] His Excellency President Daniel arap Moi, received President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe, who arrived in Nairobi this evening for 2-day official visit. The plane carrying President Mugabe landed at the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport shortly after 7:30 pm. President Moi then introduced the Zimbabwean leader to Kenyan officials, including the vice president and minister for finance, Prof George Saitoti. [passage omitted]

The two leaders will hold talks tomorrow at State House, Nairobi.

### Departs Following Talks With Moi

EA0812170089 Nairobi Domestic Service in English  
1300 GMT 8 Dec 89

[Excerpt] His Excellency President Daniel arap Moi and President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe today at State House Nairobi held talks which centered on the search for a lasting peace in Mozambique. President Moi and President Mugabe, who are the co-mediators in the peace process in Mozambique, reviewed the progress made so far in their search for a lasting peace in that country. During their consultations, both presidents decided on the steps to be taken to maintain the momentum of the peace process.

Other reports say that President Mugabe, who was in Kenya for a 2-day visit, departed for home this afternoon, shortly after 1530. President Mugabe was seen off at the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport by his host, President Moi, where he inspected a guard of honor mounted by a detachment of Kenya's Armed Forces before departure. [passage omitted]

## Somalia

### Government Reportedly Defeats SNM 'Bandits'

EA0812191189 Mogadishu Domestic Service  
in Somali 1700 GMT 8 Dec 89

[Text] A report released today by the Somali Democratic Republic [SDR] Defense Ministry said yesterday a gang of armed bandits attacked refugee camps in Hargeysa and Arabsiyo, killing defenseless people, mostly women and children. The report said the bandits, who call

themselves the Somali National Movement [SNM] committed this brutal crime. The report disclosed that the SDR Armed Forces destroyed the criminal bandits who perpetrated this beastly act.

### Commentary Claims SNM Victory at Hargeysa

EA0812220589 (Clandestine) Radio of the Somali  
National Movement in Somali 1500 GMT 8 Dec 89

[Commentary read by Somali National Movement (SNM) fighter (Abdi Bobeh)]

[Excerpts] In the name of God the merciful and compassionate: What is happening in Hargeysa? Here is a short commentary to review events in Hargeysa and many parts of the northern regions for international public opinion.

On 4 December serious fighting took place between the SNM liberation forces and those still loyal to the facist regime of Siad Barre in Hargeysa. This was a humiliating defeat for the soldiers of the so-called government in Mogadishu, and the town was captured by the SNM.

The facts surrounding the events in Hargeysa are what they are, but the international mass media appear to be confused about what happened in Hargeysa. In this short commentary, therefore, we shall review the situation there and the true [word indistinct].

Aerial bombardments caused the SNM to establish a strong antiaircraft defense force armed with modern weapons. This inspired fear and psychological shock, particularly affecting pilots, and many aircraft have been shot down. This is clearly proven by the fact that the enemy no longer dares to attack either from the air or the ground the headquarters of the organization or the base of Radio SNM, both of which are situated inside the country.

This suffices as an introduction to what is happening in Hargeysa. The resolutions and organizational plans of the SNM Central Committee liberated Hargeysa and will liberate the rest of Somalia. The SNM liberation forces and the Somali people are [words indistinct] victory to the SNM [word indistinct].

### Diplomatic Relations Established With Zimbabwe

EA0712124689 Mogadishu Domestic Service  
in Somali 2045 GMT 5 Dec 89

[Text] A report released today by the Foreign Ministry of Somalia disclosed that the Somali Government and the Government of Zimbabwe, in line with the UN Charter, have decided to establish diplomatic relations based on friendship and cooperation.

The report adds that the two sides have agreed to have diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level, while respecting equality, noninterference in the domestic affairs of the other, (?independence), and sovereignty.

**Police Say Right Wing Planned Attack on De Klerk**

*MB0812163989 Johannesburg SAPA in English  
1629 GMT 8 Dec 89*

[Text] Pretoria Dec 8 SAPA—State President F.W. de Klerk and three cabinet ministers were on an "order of death" list found when Dawid Johannes de Beer and four others were arrested, police revealed here on Friday [8 December].

"Among other things, there was a plan to attack these four simultaneously. That would have created chaos in the country," Maj-Gen Jaap Joubert of the detective branch of the SAP [South African Police] told a briefing for journalists.

The minister named were Mr Pik Botha, foreign affairs, Mr Adriaan Vlok, law and order, and Gen Magnus Malan, defence.

Police had been monitoring the five people, a right-wing splinter group of the Afrikanse Weerstandbeweging [Afrikaner Resistance Movement].

When two of their number were trained as sharpshooters, police took action to prevent them putting anything into effect, reporters were told.

Charges pending against the five include terrorism, murder, armed robbery and contravention of the arms and ammunition act as well as the explosives act, Gen Joubert said.

The "order of death" list contained many names, including those of Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu and the Rev Allan Boesak.

Mr Vlok and the acting commissioner of police, Gen Johan van der Merwe, were also present at Friday's briefing.

The men arrested with De Beer were identified earlier this week as Fanie Goosen, 29, Cornelis Johannes Lottering, 24, all of Vereeniging, and Hendrik Francois Binneman, 41, and Cornelius Gerhardus van Zyl, 28, both of Randburg.

Rifles, shotguns, tearsmoke canisters, handgrenades, knives, crossbows, mortar bombs, gelignite and dynamite, were among items seized from five different locations after the arrest of the five.

Gen Joubert said two men, whom he did not identify, had been trained as sharpshooters on a farm in the northern Transvaal.

Police were investigating links between these men and those who were arrested—and freed in a dramatic attack

on their police escort this week—for an attack on an UNTAG [UN Transition Assistance Group] post at Outjo, in Namibia in which one man died.

It was not yet clear whether the link was more than common membership of the AWB [Afrikaner Resistance Movement].

It was clear that there had to be an organisation behind the freeing of the Outjo three.

The attack on the police escort showed good information and good planning of when and where to strike.

The police investigation was at an early stage. It was not yet known whether there was any connection between these men and the murderers of Dr David Webster in Johannesburg and Mr Anton Lubowski in Windhoek.

"We have to look deeper. So far no connection has been found," Gen Joubert said.

The police were anxious to uncover how deep and far the organisation's tentacles stretched and they hoped people with information would come forward.

Discussing the investigations into the activities of former policemen Barnard and his connections, Gen Joubert said:

"It is clear that we have to do with people who go to work in a sophisticated way. They have money and planning. We do not yet know exactly what we are looking at and what is behind the curtain."

Mr Vlok repeated Pres de Klerk's assurances the government wished to uncover to the bone all the illegal acts of policemen who were alleged to have murdered people.

A list of names of people on both the left and right who had been murdered for political reasons had been compiled and these cases were being investigated anew.

"We want to charge the culprits," Mr Vlok said.

"They must be brought before the courts to answer and be judged there. I have confidence in the courts of this country."

The names of as many as 79 are on the list so far.

The allegations by former SAP Capt Dirk Coetzee and death row prisoner Butana Nofomela about hit squads were being investigated not by the security branch, but by the detective branch of the police, Mr Vlok said.

Speed was of the essence, and government wanted to see results soon so that the public could be assured the system worked.



**Foreign Ministry Denies Paying Comoros Guard**

MB1012102589 Johannesburg SUNDAY TIMES  
in English 10 Dec 89 p 17

[By Suzanne Lowry, Paris; from the "World Watch" section]

[Excerpts] French armed forces are poised to either attack or rescue mercenary Colonel Bob Denard, who is still in control of the Comoros.

A detachment of marine commandos has been sent from France to Reunion Island, which is three hours' flying time away, and three French warships are on standby at the nearby island of Mayotte. [passage omitted]

The 800 French Foreign Legionnaires base on Mayotte were reported to be in the process of setting up camp for a further 400 soldiers, Paris sources revealed.

But mercenary reinforcements are also reported to be flying in from France and South Africa to the aid of the floundering Col Denard. The colonel-for-hire said this week he had no intention of leaving the Indian Ocean islands. But Paris reports also state that the veteran mercenary leader is having to resort to increasingly repressive measures to curb the angry masses in revolt against his regime. [passage omitted]

Felicity Levine reports that diplomats from France and South Africa have said this week that they will do what it takes to avoid a bloodbath.

Unconfirmed reports claim France and South Africa have offered Col Denard bribes amounting to R100-million [100 million rand] to leave the islands.

Foreign Minister Pik Botha said London reports that South Africa was "paying the salaries of mercenaries" were untrue.

London's DAILY TELEGRAPH newspaper had claimed the Presidential Guard had been receiving more than R8-million annually from Pretoria.

A spokesman for the Foreign Affairs department responsible for East Africa and the Indian Ocean told the SUNDAY TIMES: "We put pressure on Denard to disband the Presidential Guard because money we were investing in the islands for development projects was being used to pay the salaries of the mercenaries.

"We never intended to pay the Presidential Guard."

South Africa has, in fact, invested more than R100-million in the Comoros since 1980.

And the Comoros still owes South Africa more than R30-million in loans.

Sources said the decision taken by South Africa and France—and approved by [former President Ahmed] Abdallah—to disband the Presidential Guard by the end of the year precipitated Denard's "coup". [passage omitted]

**CDF Adopts Declaration Criticizing Government**

MB1012052589 Johannesburg SAPA in English  
0106 GMT 10 Dec 89

[Text] Johannesburg, Dec 9, SAPA—State President Mr F.W. de Klerk's reform programme was declared irrelevant by some 4,500 delegates at the Conference for a Democratic Future (CDF) which ended on Saturday night at Wits [Witwatersrand] University in Johannesburg.

"We are convinced that the De Klerk government is not interested in creating a democratic South Africa, nor is it interested in genuine negotiations. Clearly, De Klerk is buying time to re-order the forces of minority domination and win over some of our people to his fraudulent schemes," the declaration, which was endorsed by the Black Consciousness Movement [BCM] and the Mass Democratic Movement [MDM], said.

The conference, which was billed in some quarters as the largest anti-apartheid gathering since the fifties, agreed on joint action to galvanise "every section of our society into united action against apartheid."

"The oppressed people shall be masters of their own history—not De Klerk. We have broken the shackles of the state of emergency, our gallant detainees have won their release through the hunger strike and our marches have challenged De Klerk to restrain his dogs of war."

The conference challenged De Klerk to indicate his sincerity about negotiations for a democratic South Africa, and once he had done so, the various participating organisations would be ready to talk about negotiations.

"We have put the question of political power first on the agenda today (Saturday). today, we will jointly map out a programme to intensify our struggle against apartheid and exploitation as never before."

The conference—which was boycotted by the recently-launched Pan-Africanist Movement (PAM) and the country's second largest labour federation, NACTU [National Council of Trade Unions]—indicated a willingness on the part of the BCM and the MDM to shelve ideological differences that led to intense friction in 1984.

The lack of participation of the PAM and various organisations linked to the pan-Africanist sentiment undoubtedly left an ideological void in the conference.

But, more than 2,100 organisations belonging to the BCM and the MDM attended the gathering indicating massive support for the proceedings.

In an opening address, AZAPO's [Azanian People's Organization] Dr Jerry Mosala—whose speech was little reported—told the conference that negotiations could not form part of the conference's discussions and had to be rejected.



Setting the tone against negotiations, Dr Mosala said anti-apartheid organisations in the country had to forge closer links for united action against the De Klerk government.

### Urges Whites To Protest Apartheid

MB1012112789 Johannesburg SAPA in English  
1128 GMT 10 Dec 89

[By Neil Lewis]

[Text] Johannesburg, Dec 10, SAPA—The Conference for a Democratic Future [CDF] Sunday embarked on a confrontational path with the Pretoria authorities when they issued a call to all whites to break decisively with apartheid and take to the streets to indicate their rejection of apartheid.

The call came in a resolution passed by the conference—which brought together members of the Black Consciousness Movement and the Mass Democratic Movement—which was released to the media on Sunday afternoon.

Noting that many whites had indicated their desire for an end to apartheid and "a speedy and just resolution to the conflict" in the country, the CDF said the protest should be in the form of marches from the towns to the townships.

Another resolution adopted by the conference noted the growing number of military and conscientious objectors and called on the authorities to impose a moratorium on all objector trials as well as to release unconditionally those imprisoned objectors.

"In addition, we call on all foreign government to provide asylum for conscientious objectors and other political refugees. (We) will also campaign for local and international companies and organisations to end material, spiritual and financial support to various arms of the security forces, for example, Armscor [Armaments Corporation of South Africa], Barlow Rand and Atlas Air Corporation," said the resolution.

The CDF also resolved to initiate campaigns "directed at both conscripts and black security force members in order to educate them about the role of the SADF [South African Defense Force] in upholding apartheid."

Part of the resolution dealing with conscription is sure to draw the attention of the authorities as it openly flouts laws dealing with national service.

### Resolves To Intensify Protests

MB1012121789 Johannesburg SAPA in English  
1215 GMT 10 Dec 89

[By Craig Doonan]

[Text] Johannesburg, Dec 10, SAPA—Democratic forces in South Africa could not and would not wait until state president, Mr F.W. de Klerk, was ready for negotiations and would therefore, intensify the struggle against apartheid, the Conference for a Democratic Future (CDF) resolved on Sunday.

"We are convinced the De Klerk government is not interested in creating a democratic South Africa, nor is it interested in genuine negotiations," a document of resolutions stated.

It added that if Mr de Klerk could convince anti-apartheid organisations that he was serious about genuine negotiations on the creation of a democratic South Africa, "and he has created the necessary conditions for negotiations, we are ready to talk about the creation of a democratic South Africa."

However, they said Mr de Klerk had done nothing to convince the CDF that he was genuine.

"We cannot and will not wait until he is ready," they announced.

Over 4,600 delegates representing 2,138 anti-apartheid organisations resolved to end apartheid as soon as possible and take mass action to its highest level in the 1990s to achieve this end.

At a press conference on Sunday, members of the convening committee demanded that a climate for negotiations be created, and rejected the "black vote" in determining leaders for negotiations.

"We would oppose this and ensure those who participated would not receive a mandate," they added.

Speaking on behalf of the convening committee, Mr Haroon Patel told journalists the CDF had been "extremely significant and historical."

He said the CDF had aimed at unifying anti-apartheid forces and Saturday's deliberations had "far exceeded expectations."

He added the CDF's resounding success "underscored the need to broaden the base of anti-apartheid forces."

The conference had provided for much debate and at times delegates questioned whether consensus would be reached, but "at the end we concluded with a spirit of unprecedented unity."

MDM [Mass Democratic Movement] leader Mr Murphy Morobe said the most significant event of the conference was the adoption of the Harare declaration as a guide to ending apartheid, and added the CDF had agreed to intensify the liberation struggle.

"De Klerk's reforms are devoid in substance in terms of the elements needed for the necessary climate for negotiations," he said.

He added that the decision to call for a Constituent Assembly was an important issue to emerge from the CDF, and this should be established on a non-racial basis representing all South Africans in the drawing up of a new constitution.

Mr Morobe said an estimated 15 million people had been represented by delegates at the CDF and they had come from all over South Africa.

Questioned on whether the CDF's intention was to form an anti-apartheid coalition, the convening committee said the "very process of organising the CDF is in itself an emerging coalition. We want to emphasise united action, but we don't want to give it a specific form".

Commenting on jailed ANC [African National Congress] leader, Mr Nelson Mandela's position, Mr Morobe said Mr Mandela played an "important and central role with other leaders".

"At present, it is too early to begin to enter into what role he is going to play. He has said he is a member of the ANC and recognises the organisation's leadership," Mr Morobe explained.

The resolutions further called on the international community to intensify the isolation of the South African Government and to impose comprehensive and mandatory sanctions.

"We will not resist [as received] until all the people of South Africa—black and white—govern in a non-racial, democratic and united South Africa," the resolution stated.

**Angola****Embassy Warns U.S. To 'Pay Dearly' for Deaths***MB0812121589 Johannesburg SAPA in English  
1200 GMT 8 Dec 89*

[Text] Harare Dec 8 SAPA—Angola has warned that more Americans are likely to die in its territory, for as long as the United States continues to support UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] rebels, Zimbabwe's news agency ZIANA reports.

Commenting on the death of five people, who were killed when an American aircraft carrying equipment for UNITA crashed last month, a statement released in Harare by the Angolan Embassy said the U.S. would pay dearly for all the deaths it had caused in Angola.

"There is no ill which lasts forever. The death of the Americans in Jamba is one small sign of this. Others will surely follow," it said.

The statement said that by persisting in its military aid to UNITA, which is led by Jonas Savimbi, the U.S. had promoted war in Angola and increased the hostility of Angolans towards those who followed orders.

"If it were not for their help at this time, all Angolans would be living in peace and security and implementing the mechanisms for integration foreseen by the government's peace plan, which earned the approval of the OAU and of the Non-Aligned States," the statement said.

The aircraft, which is said to have taken off from a Zairean military base and to have been transporting military and other equipment for UNITA, crashed in South-Eastern Angola on November 27.

**President Dos Santos on Official Visit to Cuba**  
*WA1112153589*

For reportage on President Dos Santos' official visit to Cuba, including his talks with Fidel Castro, see the Cuba section of the 6 December Latin America DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

**UNITA: 'Major' Menongue MPLA Army Movement***MB1012062689 (Clandestine) Voice of Resistance  
of the Black Cockerel in Portuguese to Southern  
and Central Africa 0510 GMT 10 Dec 89*

[Text] The Luanda regime is preparing to launch yet another major military offensive against UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola]-controlled areas in central and southern Angola.

Our Menongue correspondent reports gigantic military columns have been seen moving from Menongue to Cuito Cuanavale over the last 5 days. The MPLA [Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola]-Labor

Party military columns include tanks, BMP-1 and BTR military vehicles, BM-21 rocket launchers, and (?trucks) loaded with ammunition and bombs are being deployed in the positions of (Salariete), Uchambinga, and Cuatir [words indistinct] operational.

Our correspondent also reports that large Ilyushin-76, Boeing-707, Antonov, and Hercules C-130 aircraft have increased flights carrying troops and war materiel to Menongue City.

The unpopular and corrupt Luanda regime has ignored all the calls for peace and national reconciliation in Angola and is now intent on carrying out its warmongering intentions to extend the Angolan people's suffering.

The MPLA-Labor Party leaders have used ploy upon ploy to avoid the Gbadolite principles, and they have not yet replied to UNITA's concrete peace proposals for an effective cease-fire in the country.

**Comoros****Denard Said To Meet With Opposition Leaders***AB1022121789 Paris AFP in French 1116 GMT  
10 Dec 89*

[By AFP Special Envoy Michel Sailhan]

[Excerpts] Mayotte, 10 Dec (AFP)—An atmosphere of tense calm is prevailing today in the Comoros, controlled for about 15 days now by French mercenary Bob Denard's forces, diplomatic sources said in Moroni in a telephone conversation from the French island of Mayotte. "The situation has been calm for 3 days," a Western diplomat, who asked not to be named, said. He added that yesterday [9 December] members of the Presidential Guard made several patrols throughout the capital. [passage omitted] According to another diplomat in Moroni, the "situation was calm but tense" yesterday and this morning. [passage omitted]

According to the same diplomatic sources, a meeting was scheduled to take place today [10 December] between the various opposition leaders at the request of the acting head of state, Mr Siad Mohamed Djohar. The meeting was aimed at preparing the presidential elections, scheduled to take place in January, it was further said. And since President Djohar, in his own words, possesses only an administrative authority, it is likely that the meeting was called by Bob Denard himself, the diplomats added. The French mercenary is trying to demonstrate that the political process is proceeding. According to this statement, Bob Denard has no intention of leaving the Comoros.



### Acting President Consults Politicians

EA1012210789 Moroni Domestic Service in French  
1700 GMT 10 Dec 89

[Text] The political forces of Grand Comore have responded favorably to the invitation issued to them some days ago by the interim president of the Republic to attend a round-table meeting on the current situation in the country. The first meeting was held at (Beyjikalani) under the chairmanship of Mr Said Mohamed Djohar, in the presence of the [word indistinct] and the governor of the island of Grande Comore. At the end of the introductory meeting, agreement was reached that another meeting would be held on 13 December. In view of the importance of the meeting, our colleague (Ali Wasany) interviewed the interim president of the republic, Mr Said Mohamed Djohar, who tells us first why the meeting was held.

[Begin Djohar recording] Before answering the question, I would first like to thank the representatives of the different political forces who responded to my invitation, because this is a matter of national importance. Since they all attended, the question was not complicated. I only wanted to know whether they were keen to work with everybody else—with other absent political forces—in order to find a solution to this situation.

So they came. There was not much to say. I wanted them to agree in principle to attend the great meeting to be held next Wednesday. They said they were in favor of it.

The other questions we discussed were matters of secondary importance. However, the big task will start on Wednesday. We shall see what will come of it. You listened to the call broadcast on the radio, because the situation is such that every Comoran has to know it. First, there was a presidency. Now there is not. I am called a president, but [words indistinct] interim. I am in charge of day-to-day duties. In accordance with the Constitution, I have to prepare elections in the shortest possible time.

So, there is something we should think about. You know that in such a situation there has to be change, especially now, for those political forces which were opposing the regime. Now, you know the situation. The first thing to do is to save the country. To save the country, the different political forces in the Comoros should be consulted. [passage omitted] [end recording]

### France, RSA, Denard Hold 'Fresh' Talks

AB1112071089 Paris AFP in French 0531 GMT  
11 Dec 89

[Text] Mayotte (France), 11 Dec (AFP)—Fresh negotiations were held yesterday between France, [the Republic of] South Africa (RSA), and the mercenary Bob Denard to secure the latter's departure from Comoros, it was learned today from well-informed sources in Moroni. "There is progress in the negotiations," a diplomat, who requested anonymity, stated this morning in Moroni.

According to an unconfirmed rumor reaching the French island of Mayotte, the French mercenary and his deputy, Major Marques, have reportedly left Comoros already.

France and South Africa, the two powers wielding influence in Comoros, have requested the departure of Bob Denard and his mercenaries who have been controlling the archipelago since 26 November, when President Abdallah was assassinated.

### French Reaction, Response to Political Situation

#### Helicopters Sent to Mayotte

LD0712190589 Paris International Service  
in French 1230 GMT 7 Dec 89

[Text] Puma transport helicopters have been sent to Mayotte for a possible evacuation of the 1,600 nationals currently living in the Comoros. This is the decision which has just been taken by the French military authorities. (Denis Douget), our correspondent in Mayotte, has just confirmed for us the arrival there of the first Transall. He has also reported to us that the "Marne," which is the command ship of the French Navy in the Indian Ocean, has returned to the searoad of Mayotte. General (Pelachioni), the commander of the French forces in the southern Indian Ocean, who is stationed on Reunion, has announced that these preparations are being undertaken in case the unfolding situation in the Comoros make a humanitarian action necessary. [passage omitted]

#### Commandos Leave Reunion for Country

LD0812162989 Paris Domestic Service in French  
1600 GMT 8 Dec 89

[Text] Commandos of the French Navy have left Reunion for the Comoros. The Navy staff furthermore has confirmed the presence at Mayotte of the ship "Amiral" of the French fleet in the Indian Ocean, the supply tanker "Marne", and an escort ship and a patrol ship. The Comoros are still under the control of the fighters of the mercenary Bob Denard.

#### Pressure Applied to Denard

EA0812223989 Mayotte Radio France Overseas  
in French 1600 GMT 8 Dec 89

[Text] The Comoros are in the headlines with the noose increasingly tightening around Bob Denard and the French mercenaries, whose armed forces have been in control of the country since 26 November. With pressure from France and South Africa being added to the street demonstrations held in Moroni aimed at forcing him to leave the archipelago, the mercenaries are now stuck and have closed all doors to themselves. This was stated by a diplomat accredited to the Comoran capital. Bob Denard's henchmen also deported 13 foreign journalists to Kenya.

It has been noted that security has sharply declined. French authorities are in a very difficult position as no acceptable interlocutor exists in Moroni. The Comoran officials who remained at their posts after the assassination of President Abdallah represent no one at all. The interim president, Sa'id Muhammad Jawhar, yesterday admitted to foreign journalists that he does not have the power to make the most important decisions. He also said he does not know who had killed the president or who is in charge of the investigation.

Moroni was calm today. The presidential guard is patrolling but no incidents have been reported. However, unconfirmed reports say (?teachers) went on strike on Anjouan Island yesterday. On Grande Comore Island, tracts signed by new generation and resistance committees called for a gathering tomorrow outside the French Embassy to demand the departure of the mercenaries.

The French authorities, for their part, refuse to deal directly with Bob Denard and his men. [word indistinct] soldiers. A Breguet Atlantic (Maritime patrol aircraft) patrolled the coasts of the Comoros at low altitude. This morning, another royal [as heard] entered Mayotte. It is the escort ship ("Pritet").

Other reports mention the presence of [words indistinct] not far from Mayotte. Units of the foreign regiment of paratroopers based in Djibouti, are said to have been put on a state of alert and it is rumored that the commando (Hubert) might arrive in Mayotte.

Here in Mayotte, the [word indistinct], the foreign legion unit Mayotte, today started to erect a tended camp at the Badamiers which can shelter 400 persons. The three Puma helicopters which arrived yesterday and this morning are now operational. Two more are expected tomorrow.

#### **Navy Strengthens Protection**

*EA0812064589 Antananarivo Domestic Service  
in Malagasy 1830 GMT 8 Dec 89*

[Text] In the Comoros, the Indian Ocean-based French Navy is strengthening its protection of its nationals and interests in the Comoros. The possible repatriation of French nationals—whose number is now given as 1,600 in the Comoros—is frequently mentioned. A French Transall aircraft is in Moroni to protect these nationals with military equipment. The Indian Ocean-based French naval ship "La Marne" is also patrolling off Moroni.

It is, however, reported that the general situation is calm in the Comoros, although Bob Denard does not intend to pack his bags and leave the Comoros. He still controls the Comoran Presidential Guard.

#### **Military Reinforcements Leave France**

*LD0812230189 Paris Domestic Service in French  
2200 GMT 8 Dec 89*

[Text] Is France going to intervene in the Comoros? In any case France is behaving as if preparing for intervention. Yesterday several Navy ships were in the region or on the way to Mayotte, which is situated next to the archipelago held by Bob Denard's mercenaries, and this evening we have learned that military reinforcements have left mainland France for the island of Reunion; two Hercules planes and a Transall have taken off from Toulouse with members of several paratroop units aboard.

#### **No Plans To 'Intervene Militarily'**

*LD0912105689 Paris Domestic Service in French  
1000 GMT 9 Dec 89*

[Text] France has no intention of intervening militarily in the Comoros, says the French Defense Ministry this morning, firm in denying in a communique the reports that French soldiers are currently on the way to the archipelago which has been in the hands of the mercenaries of Bob Denard for a week now. French military reinforcements nevertheless left the French mainland yesterday for Reunion, but the Army press service stresses that the only operation which could be organized would be the possible evacuation of French people living in the Comoros.

#### **Spokesman Cites 'Preparations'**

*AB1012104989 Paris AFP in French 0918 GMT  
10 Dec 89*

[Text] Mayotte, 10 Dec (AFP)—Preparations for a military operation designed to evacuate some 1,600 French nationals from Comoros were still going on today in the French islands of Mayotte and Reunion, it was learned from military sources.

"We are continuing preparations pending a political decision," it was announced last night in Reunion by Lieutenant Colonel Philippe Charrier of the French Armed Forces Information and Public Relations Service, SIRPA. Both the naval and air-borne forces are involved in the preparations and the Mayotte platform is used as the starting and return base, Lt Col Charrier explained. The French island of Mayotte is located in the Comoran archipelago, which fell under the control of the French mercenary Bob Denard in the wake of the assassination of President Ahmed Abdallah on 26 November. Five Puma helicopters and five Transall transport aircraft have been flown into Mayotte, where the Jaubert Marine commando unit has also arrived from Djibouti, a military source said. According to the same source, a marine commando unit has arrived in Reunion and is stationed at the Pierrefond base (in the south of the island).

Meanwhile, three warships are lying at anchor in Mayotte, it has been noticed on the spot. They are the refueling tanker "La Marne," the corvet "Protet," and the patrol-boat "La Boudeuse." Furthermore, the light transport ship "La Grandiere" is expected in Mayotte. It has been officially announced that an advanced surgical unit has been set up on board the "La Marne."

Such an evacuation operation, if carried out without military clashes with Bob Denard's forces, would involve about 300 men, excluding the ship and aircraft crew, it is said.

On Tuesday, 5 November, Bob Denard announced his refusal to leave Comoros as requested by France and South Africa, the two powers wielding influence in the archipelago.

The 1,600 French nationals in Comoros include some 600 on a temporary resident status, especially technical and military assistance experts.

#### Forces 'on State of Alert'

LD1012165389 Paris International Service  
in French 1230 GMT 10 Dec 89

[Excerpts] We are continuing with preparations and awaiting a political decision, a statement made on the island of Reunion, the French department in the Indian Ocean, by Lieutenant Colonel Philippe Charrier, of the Armed Forces information and public relations service. These preparations are taking place on Reunion, where a Navy commando unit has arrived, but above all on the island of the Comoran archipelago which remained french—Mayotte, from where our special correspondent, Pascal Chelet, has just called us:

[Chelet] The island of Mayotte has just welcomed another warship, the Batral la Grandiere, a troop transport ship specially equipped for carrying out beach landings, which can take 138 men and 12 vehicles. [passage omitted]

Seven helicopters in all—including five Pumas—and four warships of the French naval fleet in the Indian Ocean are stationed at Mayotte today. Officially this deployment of forces is being carried out with a view to a humanitarian mission to the Comoros if the situation degenerates on the archipelago. [passage omitted]

In a radio communique the interim President Said Djohar asked the Comorans not to demonstrate any longer. The president is to meet several opposition leaders today to attempt to find a solution to the crisis. The Comorans are already talking of manipulation, and believe that Djohar is obeying the orders of Bob Denard.

The Comorans who can no longer tolerate the presence of Bob Denard are calling once again for help from France, and I quote, any nation which can help us to rid ourselves of the mercenaries. The French forces not far from there on the island of Mayotte are on a state of alert—a sign of this is that the troops which are arriving

have swapped their berets for helmets, and the regulation colored armband worn for operations.

#### Mozambique

No Comment From Government on 'Secret Agreement'  
EA1012193389 Dakar PANA in English 1340 GMT  
10 Dec 89

[Excerpt] Maputo, 10 Dec (AIM/PANA)—A Mozambican Government source refused Sunday to confirm or deny reports that the Kenyan and Zimbabwean presidents, Daniel arap Moi and Robert Mugabe, have signed a secret agreement on steps to be taken to establish peace in Mozambique.

The two presidents, who are mediating in the Mozambican conflict, met for a further round of talks in Nairobi on Friday. The news that Mugabe and Moi signed a secret agreement after four hours of talks was announced by the ZIMBABWEAN NEWS AGENCY, ZIANA, on Friday night. A Mozambican delegation, led by transport minister Armando Guebuza, was also in Nairobi. Guebuza accompanied President Mugabe on his return to Harare on Friday, and flew on to Maputo on Saturday.

An official Mozambican source, contacted by AIM Sunday, would neither confirm nor deny the ZIANA report of a secret agreement. He told AIM "our task in Nairobi was to be available for any clarification that the mediators might require about the position of our government". [passage omitted]

#### Zimbabwe

Mugabe Signs Agreement With Kenya's Moi, Departs  
MB0812175889 Johannesburg SAPA in English  
1751 GMT 8 Dec 89

[Text] Harare Dec 8 SAPA—Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe arrived here on Friday [8 December] from Nairobi where he signed a secret agreement with Kenyan leader Daniel arap Moi on steps the two will take to maintain the momentum of a programme to resolve the war in Mozambique.

Mr Mugabe and Mr Moi, co-mediators in a peace initiative launched by the Maputo government five months ago to end its 14-year old war with RENAMO [Mozambique National Resistance], signed the agreement at the end of four hours of consultative talks to review the peace programme, ZIANA reports.

The two presidents reviewed progress made so far in their search for lasting peace in Mozambique and decided on the steps to be taken to maintain the momentum of the peace process, said a statement signed by Kenyan minister for foreign affairs and international cooperation, Robert Ouko.



The two-paragraph statement did not give a hint of what these steps are. ZIANA said both Zimbabwean and Kenyan officials were reluctant to talk about it.

Without giving any details away, a senior Zimbabwe Government official said there is definite progress in the mediation efforts.

Considerable progress is being made but I cannot tell you more than that at this stage, said Ministry of Foreign Affairs Permanent Secretary Elleck Mashigaidze.

Mr Mugabe and Mr Moi's highly secretive talks and the general news blackout on their peace initiative is being interpreted by some diplomats as an indication progress is being made and also a sign that the leaders don't want to upset the peace process by negotiating in public.

Reliable sources said Renamo leader Afonso Dhlakama has been in Nairobi since last week, but it is not known whether he met Mr Moi before the Kenyan leader's meeting on Friday with President Mugabe.

Mozambican Transport Minister Armando Guebuza accompanied by three senior government officials was also in Nairobi and came to Harare with Mr Mugabe's delegation on Friday.

Mr Mugabe, who was accompanied by State Security Minister and Acting Defence Minister Sydney Sekeramayi and several senior government officials, was met at Harare International Airport by Vice-President Simon Muzenda, cabinet ministers, diplomats and other dignitaries.

The president went to Kenya on Thursday.

#### **'Secret Agreement' on Mozambique**

*EA1012181289 Nairobi KNA in English 0958 GMT  
10 Dec 89*

[Text] Harare, 10 Dec (KNA)—Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe returned to Harare on Friday after a

one-day visit to Nairobi, where he signed a secret agreement with Kenyan leader Daniel arap Moi on the steps the two will take to maintain the momentum of a programme to resolve the war in Mozambique.

Mugabe and Moi, co-mediators in a peace initiative launched by the Maputo Government five months ago to end its 14-year old war with South African-sponsored RENAMO [Mozambique National Resistance] bandits, signed the agreement at the end of four hours of consultative talks to review the peace programme.

"The two presidents reviewed progress made so far in their search for lasting peace in Mozambique and decided on the steps to be taken to maintain the momentum of the peace process," a statement signed by Kenyan minister for foreign affairs and international co-operation, Robert Ouko, said. The two-paragraph statement did not give a hint of what reluctant to talk about it [sentence as received].

Without disclosing any details, a senior Zimbabwe Government official said there is definite progress in the mediation effort. "Considerable progress is being made but I cannot tell you more than that at this stage," Zimbabwe's Ministry of Foreign Affairs permanent secretary, Elleck Mashigaidze, said.

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Reliable sources said RENAMO leader Afonso Dhlakama has been in Nairobi since last week but it is [word indistinct] whether he met Moi before the Kenyan leader's meeting with Mugabe on Friday. Mozambican transport minister, Armando Guebuza, accompanied by three senior government officials, was also in Nairobi and came to Harare with Mugabe's delegation on Friday.

Mugabe was accompanied by Zimbabwe's state security minister and acting defense minister Sydney Sekeramayi and several senior government officials.

Mugabe had left for Kenya on Thursday.

## Benin

### Fund Donors Promise Financial Aid To Pay Arrears

AB0812212789 Cotonou Domestic Service in French  
1930 GMT 8 Dec 89

[Excerpt] Fund donors are mobilizing themselves boldly behind Benin. The international community has decided to support our country to pay workers' salary arrears for the year 1989. Yes, after the major political decisions made yesterday for the success of the Structural Adjustment Program in Benin, the joint IMF-World Bank mission this morning made a statement approving and financially supporting the salary arrears payment efforts for the year 1989. In other words, the salaries of the current year will be totally paid for all 12 months.

As you know, the joint IMF-World Bank mission has been in Cotonou for some days now. It is led by Richard Wostobbe, chief economist in the West and Central African Department of the World Bank. Other members of the delegation include (Patrick Hose), resident IMF representative, and Mrs (Antoinette Senye), the economist in charge of Benin at the World Bank. In his statement, Mr Wostobbe stressed the importance of yesterday's decisions, which, in fact, are in line with the decision of the special session. Let us listen to Mr Wostobbe:

[Begin Wostobbe recording] We have just examined the terms of the final communique issued by the special joint session of the People's Revolutionary Party of Benin Central Committee, the Revolutionary National Assembly Standing Committee, and the National Executive Council. The decisions and commitments made by these national political bodies are in line with the logical results of the message delivered to the nation by the head of state on 29 November. In fact, these decisions are very important for the effective application of the structural adjustment process, which the World Bank, the IMF, and all the other partners in the development of Benin support. We have also received from the head of state the assurance that the government will implement as soon as possible the other supplementary and specific measures necessary for the success of the structural adjustment program.

We informed the government that the international community will be ready in December to help the government meet its commitments in the payment of the salaries of all the permanent workers of the state—both civilian and military—for the year 1989. We have also recognized the importance of finding a solution to the payment of salary arrears for the year 1988. In order to raise the necessary funds and define the modalities for the settlement of the salaries issue, the fund donors have decided to meet in Paris next Thursday [4 December].

However, in view of the importance of the great efforts the fund donors are expected to make in 1990, the problem of the salary arrears of 1988 will require a

sustained effort by the government. To this effect, the efficient collection of taxes that are due and the collection of arrears of revenues are vital. We thus hope that the recently created national commission for the verification of property will play an important role in this exceptional national resources mobilization effort. I thank you. [end recording] [passage omitted]

### Minister Detained in Corruption Case 6 Dec

AB0812101489 Paris AFP in French 1252 GMT  
7 Dec 89

[Text] Cotonou, 7 Dec (AFP)—The Beninese minister of equipment and transport, Colonel Martin Azonhiho, has since Wednesday, 6 December been confined to the officers' mess in Cotonou, informed military sources disclosed yesterday. Col Azonhiho, who is also a member of the Political Bureau, is being held pending investigations into a corruption case in which his permanent undersecretary, Georges Sekloka, is involved, the sources explained. His absence at the important meeting convened on Wednesday by President Mathieu Kerekou was very conspicuous, informed circles in the Beninese economic capital observed.

This is the first time in Benin that a personality of such a rank is involved in a corruption case while still performing his political and ministerial duties. A former aide-de-camp of General Kerekou, he was involved in the death of former Interior Minister Michel Aikpe who was killed in July, 1975. Col Azonhiho is considered as being close to the head of state with whom he sometimes maintains stormy relations.

### Authorities Deny Questioning

AB0812180689 Paris AFP in French 1438 GMT  
8 Dec 89

[Text] Cotonou, 8 Dec (AFP)—The Beninese minister of transport and equipment, Colonel Martin Azonhiho, is not being confined to Cotonou and is currently on a mission abroad, sources close to the Beninese presidency told AFP today. (Col Azonhiho has been in Dakar for the past 4 days on an official mission, and he was received yesterday by President Abdou Diouf).

The information that Colonel Azonhiho was being confined was provided to AFP by a military source.

Several of his aides, including the director of studies and planning in his ministry, Mr Georges Sekloka, have been questioned in recent days in Cotonou as part of the investigation of an important corruption case.

The mission assigned to the Beninese transport minister has not been officially revealed in Cotonou. The absence of this influential member of the Political Bureau of the People's Revolutionary Party of Benin (PRPB, only party) at the important meeting of the country's leaders summoned by President Mathieu Kerekou on 6 and 7 December was very conspicuous.

**Demonstrations in Porto Novo Reported**

*AB0812223089 Lome Domestic Service in French  
2200 GMT 8 Dec 89*

[Excerpt] At least 15,000 people today took to the streets of the Beninese capital, Porto Novo, to take part in the most important antigovernment demonstration ever organized in Benin. They were unhappy with the promises for economic reforms, promises made by the government and supported by the official communique, which earlier in the day announced that the government was renouncing the policy of Marxism-Leninism.

The demonstrators demanded the resignation of President Mathieu Kerekou. We want the resignation of Kerekou and the organization of free elections, one of the demonstrators said in front of the government headquarters. Policemen armed with truncheons discouraged them from entering the gardens of the building, but security forces did not intervene. The demonstrations ended early in the afternoon, but several demonstrators said they would resume later.

Several of the demonstrators said that the dropping of Marxism-Leninism, Benin's official ideology for 15 years, did not change the situation. It was only to distract our attention, another demonstrator said. [passage omitted]

**Niger****Ali Saibou Said To Win 99.7 Percent of Vote**

*AB1112091089 Paris AFP in English 0736 GMT  
11 Dec 89*

[Text] Niamey, Dec 11 (AFP)—President Ali Saibou was set on Monday [11 December] to be returned unopposed

with near 100 percent backing from Sunday's elections, according to the National Voting Commission with half the votes counted.

The commission said the "yes" vote for Mr. Saibou had so far reached 99.7 percent, with an abstention rate of 3.98 percent.

And the backing for 93 members of parliament, who were also unopposed, was nearly as high, the commission said.

There was no blank vote card in Sunday's polls, the first for 19 years.

Full unofficial results were expected to be known later Monday, and the final official figures on December 18.

Higher levels of "no's" were recorded in towns noted for their opposition—4.93 percent at Zinder, and levels of abstention—24.56 percent at Dogon Doutchi, 16.15 percent at Agades, 112.81 percent at Niamey-3—one of the capital's three constituencies—and 10.95 percent at Zinder.

During previous polls, for adopting the national charter in June 1987 and the Constitution last September, the "yes" votes were recorded at 99.64 percent and 99.28 percent, on turnouts of 99.44 percent and 95.08 percent.

The electorate, consisting of all people over 21 together with married minors, including many women, was first voting for or against General Saibou, then for a single parliamentary list of 93 deputies.

About half of the total population of some 7.2 million was taking part on age grounds.

Gen. Saibou, 49, was a colonel when he became head of state in December 1987, following the death after illness of General Seyni Kountche, who had run the Sahelian country since a military coup in 1974.



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12 Dec 1989

